

Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

On Teams Hosted by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

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Conference ID: 272 154 251#

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Laura Campbell, Co-Chair, Farm Bureau, welcomed members and guests and shared the logistics for participation in the meeting. She noted she will be sharing the Chair role with fellow Chairs Eggers and Burroughs who will also facilitate portions of the agenda. She then took roll call attendance of members, asking them to share their location, and for their alternates to announce if they are present.

2. Roll Call

WUAC Members/Alternates Present:

Abby Eaton, East Lansing, MI - MDARD
Brian Eggers, Traverse City, MI - AKT Peerless
Bryan Burroughs, DeWitt, MI/Taylor Ridderbusch, Michigan Trout Unlimited
Christine Alexander, Okemos, MI - EGLE
Dave Hamilton, Haslett, MI - The Nature Conservancy Retired
Doug Needham, Okemos, MI - Michigan Aggregates Association
Frank Ettawageshik, Harbor Springs, MI - United Tribes of Michigan
Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
James Clift, Deputy Director, Lansing, MI - EGLE
John Yellich, Paw Paw, MI - Michigan Geological Survey
Kelly Turner, Hartland, MI - Agricultural Irrigators
Laura Campbell, East Lansing, MI/Ben Tirrell Michigan, Farm Bureau
Margaret Bettenhausen, East Lansing, MI - Attorney General
Mike Frederick, Lansing, MI/Michigan Ground Water Association
Mike Gallagher, Richland, MI - Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations
Pat Staskiewicz, Grand Haven, MI/Clyde Dugan, Michigan AWWA
Scott DeBoe, Portage, MI/Rachel Proctor, Jackson Consumers Energy
Steve Kohler, Kalamazoo, MI - River Watershed Council
Tammy Newcomb, Webberville, MI - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Tom Zimnicki, Lansing, MI - Michigan Environmental Council

WUAC Members/Alternates Absent:

Jason Geer, Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Jim Johnson, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
Kyle Rorah, Ducks Unlimited

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Nikki Ghorpade, Ducks Unlimited
Rich Bowman, The Nature Conservancy
Sue Hanf, Michigan Aggregates Association
Buddy Sebastian, Michigan Ground Water Association
Charlie Scott, Michigan Golf Course Owners Association
Jim Nicholas, Shelby, MI - Nicholas-H2O
Tom Frazier, Haslett, MI - Michigan Townships Association
Jason Walther, Three Rivers, MI

Non-Members Present:

Aaron Asher
Bob Otwell
Christine Spitzley, OHM Advisors
Christopher Gothberg, EGLE
Clayton Joupperi, EGLE
Dave Lusch, MSU Retired
Emily Finnell, EGLE, Office of the Great Lakes
Grant Poole
Hannah Arnett, EGLE
James Ostrowski, EGLE
Jim Milne, EGLE
Joel Henry
Michael Alaimo
Nathaniel Shuff, EGLE
Ralph Haefner, USGS
Teresa Seidel EGLE

3. Approval of Agenda-Roll Call Vote

Campbell called for the approval of the agenda. Hearing no changes or additions, the agenda stood as presented.

4. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote

Campbell called for approval for minutes for the November 10, 2020 meeting. With no objections or comments the minutes were approved as presented.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

(At this time, Co-Chair Brian Eggers assumed role of meeting Chair.)

6. Final Edits for Legislative Report

Chair Eggers asked Campbell to lead the discussion. Campbell noted that final comments had been received and shared each suggested change. Each suggestion was reviewed and discussed. Campbell tracked the accepted changes in the Report. It was agreed that Campbell will provide these edits electronically to Spitzley today. Spitzley will make any needed formatting changes and provide the final 2020 WUAC Report to the Chairs by the end of this week for submittal to the Legislature and distribution to the WUAC.

7. Process and Timeline for Completing 2020 Legislative Report

The Chairs will submit the 2020 WUAC Report to the members of the Legislature identified in MCL 324.32803(7)(d). Lusch requested the group be kept informed as information and feedback becomes available from the Legislature. The Chairs agreed and will include the group in communications.

8. Set 2021 Council Meeting Dates

Turner moved to keep the meetings on second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon and to hold them every month. Hamilton asked for an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Needham, to change the meeting frequency to every other month. Ettawageshik asked for clarification on the which month this would start. It was determined the first meeting of 2021 would be in February. Turner amended her motion to hold the meetings every other month, in the afternoon, beginning in February. The amended motion was approved by consensus.

(At this time, Co-Chair Bryan Burroughs assumed role of meeting Chair.)

9. Committee Updates

Date Collection Committee: Burroughs

The Committee is working on priorities they were not able to work completely through in 2020 and will continue that work in 2021. Work in 2021 will depend on Legislative responses which will determine implementation. Burroughs asked the group to identify any new issues the Data Collection Committee should consider. The Committee plans to set meetings for several months in advance and will welcome anyone who would like to join the Committee.

Implementation Strategies Committee: Doug Needham

This Committee is on hold until feedback is returned by the Legislature. At that time, they will forward feedback and suggestions as appropriate. Issues and items that were not able to be included in this report will be reviewed and reconsidered as we move forward into the next year. The Committee expects to resume work after the first of the year.

Models Committee: Dave Hamilton

Hamilton reported the Models Committee met yesterday. They confirmed the topics they will be addressing in 2021. A document outlining these work efforts was provided via email to the group and can be found on the WUAC website. Hamilton invited anyone who is interested to join the Committee. He then reviewed the outlined topics for 2021. Tammy Newcomb and Pat Staskiewicz both asked to be included on discussions on watersheds in a depleted state.

New Topics Committee: Pat Staskiewicz

Staskiewicz said the Committee is in a holding pattern until a new topic arises. A recommendation was made for a Water Users Group subcommittee. Finnell reported on efforts with funding partner Michigan Sea Grant for the development of the Water Users Group user's manual as well as the case studies. A successful partnership with Michigan Sea Grant has been established and they have agreed to co-fund this project and this recommendation as an integrated assessment research project. The next step is secure approval from EGLE to award approximately for \$183,000 to match the Michigan Sea Grant fund so the total of \$350,000 that would be passed through the Sea Grant competitive process. We are currently in the middle of the approval stages and

hope to get approvals through EGLE in January. The Sea Grant process will be a competitive Request For Proposals release in the spring of 2021. A successful application would receive funding to begin work in February in 2022.

Conservation and Efficiency Committee: Emily Finnell

The Committee has not met during the holiday season, will convene in the new year. They have reviewed organizational needs including a diverse membership, an annual work plan, and establishing a regular meeting schedule. They are also reviewing activities that may be able to be undertaken without funding or pursuing alternate funding. Regarding recommendations for assessing Climate, Energy and Water Infrastructure Initiatives, a project has been submitted to the Dow Fellows Program Team through the University of Michigan. Notification of selection will be made in January 2021 and are typically 12-month projects (This submittal was included in today's meeting materials). This Committee would serve to help refine scope and serve in an advisory role to students

Goals for Ag Efficiency include further discussing the pilot program with other partners and determining best approaches for increasing Committee knowledge and awareness about current water conservation and efficiency practices and programs.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be February 9, 2021 meeting notices will be sent shortly with the Teams meeting information included.

11. Open Comments

Yellich thanked everyone for cooperative review. Lusch thanked Spitzley and noted the final report looks good. Ettawageshik agreed and supported Lusch's comments and the depth of today's discussion. Burroughs thanked everyone for their work to complete the report and feels the WUAC has accomplished a great deal this year despite the need for a remote video format. He noted this group engages and provides discussion on issues with a wide depth and breadth of information its ability to come to consensus has been impressive. Burroughs also asked for anyone who has suggestions on ways to improve or expand the WUAC's work please reach out to a co-chair.

12. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by consensus.